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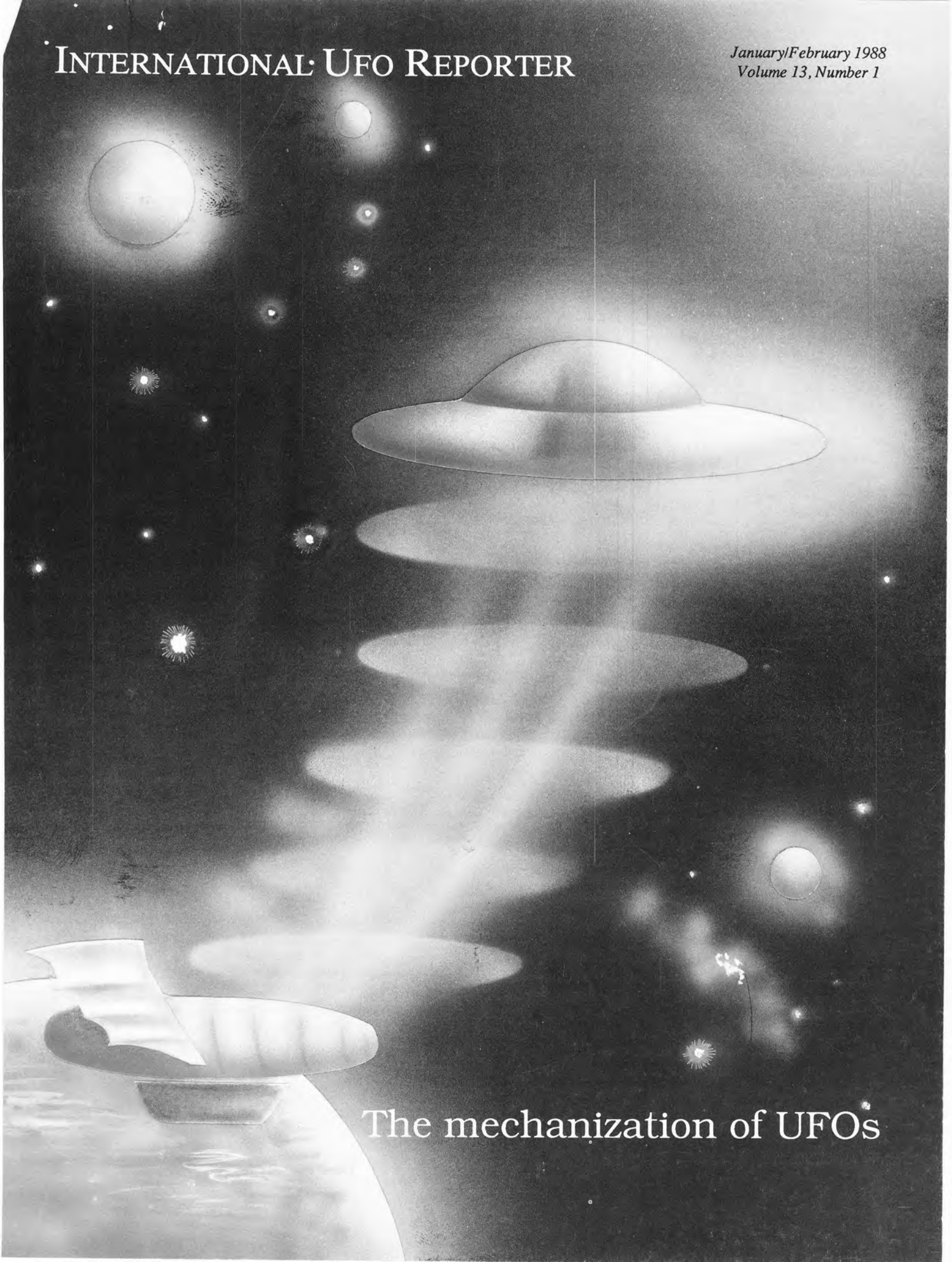

The mechanization of UFOs

INTERNATIONAL UFO REPORTER

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EDITORIAL

Your support...and other matters

Mark Rodeghier

As Jerome Clark observed in the previous editorial in *IUR*, very few bonafide UFO reports now reach the investigators of the major UFO organizations. Interest in the subject remains high, however, and Whitley Strieber's and Budd Hopkins' books recently have been on the *New York Times* paperback best-seller list. Arguments continue concerning the authenticity of the MJ-12 documents, and the subject is of such controversy that in two articles in CSICOP's *Skeptical Inquirer* Philip J. Klass attempts (without success) to demolish the claims for the documents. Several movies are planned on UFO-related topics, including one on the Travis Walton case by Tracey Torme. Thus the interest and action in the subject are, as Clark put it, "taking place at ground level" rather than in the skies.

Given this state of affairs, it is quite encouraging to observe the many CUFOS associates who "voted with their feet" the past few months and sent a special contribution to support our work. CUFOS had not tried a fund-raising appeal for several years before our letter of last December, so we were somewhat unsure as to the magnitude of response to expect. We needn't have worried.

As of late March, over 12 percent of our associates have sent a contribution, an extremely high rate for any type of fund-raising event. This translates to well over $4000, about half of it earmarked for specific activities. As scientific director of CUFOS and on behalf of the board of directors, I want to offer all contributors a sincere thank you. Some of the money has already been spent as you requested, but a healthy reserve remains.

I am especially pleased to announce that the large response has made it possible to finally publish the proceedings of the 1981 CUFOS conference, entitled *The Spectrum of UFO Research*. This volume of papers will immediately become one of the most crucial additions to any collection of serious research literature on the UFO subject. Its publication was delayed by several factors, but the funds needed to print 500 copies were the final hurdle. Included is the definitive assessment of the McMinnville, Oregon, photos by Bruce Maccabee, by itself worth the volume's cost. *Spectrum* is available from CUFOS for $12.80 postpaid.

A fund-raising category that a significant number of contributors checked was one supporting an abduction conference. We included this option because abduction reports are the one type of UFO experience that does not seem to have decreased in frequency in the 1980s. We can agree to disagree concerning the ultimate cause, or causes, of abduction reports, but everyone recognizes that such reports are more numerous now than before. That fact affords the serious investigator an opportunity to examine abduction reports and reporters with relatively current data. CUFOS is planning such a project and has enlisted the aid of university psychologists, sociologists, and other professionals. It is critical that the abduction phenomenon be given the concentrated scientific attention it merits, and CUFOS plans to play the leading role in that endeavor. We will be making an announcement of our plans later this year.

We also hope to bring together, at a small conference, about a dozen investigators of the abduction phenomenon to discuss research strategies, the collection of evidence, and the possible meaning of abduction reports. The funds we have raised will help pay the expenses of that meeting.

One more matter should be mentioned. You probably heard of alleged UFO sightings and photographs from Gulf Breeze, Florida (discussed at length in the March 1988 issue of the *MUFON UFO Journal*). Robert Boyd, CUFOS investigator coordinator, fortunately lives nearby in Mobile, Alabama, and has been assisting the MUFON team on this case. CUFOS has no official position on the events reported to have occurred or on the controversies surrounding the photographs. We do, though, want to remind members of the ufological community that, as a wise man once said, those who do not learn from history are often doomed to repeat it. Second, it is the mark of mature judgment, not a timid nature, to reserve the right to be suspicious of any evidence that looks "too good." Often such evidence turns out to be exactly that, so neither an individual nor an organization can or should be criticized for adhering to exacting standards of evidence and proof.

We look forward to the final word on the Gulf Breeze sightings, whatever the result, and we will report any further developments in *IUR*.

Let me conclude by offering my personal thanks for your generous support. It is literally true that without the associates of CUFOS, there would be no Center for UFO Studies, and the dream of Dr. Hynek would die. His lifework continues today with your help. — *Mark Rodeghier*

What can we learn from British abductions?

by Jenny Randles

Jenny Randles, an *IUR* contributing editor, is the author of the recently-published *Abduction* and other UFO books.

Most American researchers consider European ufology to be somewhat naive. This view stems from what is perceived as excessive reluctance to embrace the extraterrestrial hypothesis, an interpretation that abduction cases in particular seem to have enforced.

It is undeniably true that UFO researchers in Britain, France or Spain tend to shrink like snowballs in the sun when faced with the very idea of alien reality. Also what may look like obscure and contrived psychological explanations appear, as if conjured out of nowhere, to account for the puzzling evidence.

This creates difficulties, especially for me, because I have been brought up immersed within a school of thought that cannot even bear to contemplate the ETH. I have also had the distinctly unnerving experience of sifting through abduction case material in my country to uncover what are frequently disturbing patterns.

One of the problems British ufologists have largely failed to recognize is that they discuss abductions at a distance. John Rimmer, whose skeptical book *The Evidence for Alien Abductions* (1984) is the only one so far published in the UK exclusively about these cases, writes from a theoretical, rather than practical, point of view. While on the one hand this may give him an ability to be "objective" it is also a terribly introspective way to approach such a witness-centered phenomenon.

There seems an extraordinary reluctance to investigate cases (*any* cases) in this country. That is even more true of abductions. Talking about them in the abstract is fine and dandy. Going out there, finding them, assessing them in a real-life situation — that seems to be a no-no for all too many people.

The one man who has not fallen into this trap has been lawyer Harry Harris. He began to "study" the case of police officer Alan Godfrey in 1981 and several sessions under hypnosis with senior doctors and psychiatrists followed. Subsequently he has worked on a few other cases where missing time is indicated.

But there are problems with Harry Harris and his methodology. For a start he is not interested in documenting his cases. He has never produced a single article or case report on any of his work. He keeps everything in his head and on video film taken of the hypnosis sessions. His attitude has been challenged and he has alienated himself from almost all of the UFO community by insisting that there is no point in writing material on his cases for the UFO literature, because this is preaching to the converted. Instead, he sells it to national newspapers (normally of the caliber of the *National Enquirer*). To justify this he says that such articles by professional journalists are "thorough" and reach "millions" and also fund his future experiments.

It is true that his doctors charge several hundred dollars per session. Also there simply is no psychologist or psychiatrist in Britain willing to do this work as an experiment, rather than as a way to line his pocket.

This sad background to abduction research in Britain is another factor in the tainted image the subject has accrued. Frankly, and incorrectly (although to an extent understandably), ufologists over here have tended to reject the validity of the case material because of their distaste for Harris and his approach.

Luckily, I have been in a better position than most. I was asked to work with Alan Godfrey (and so Harry Harris) in preparing a report on the November 28, 1980, abduction in Todmorden, West Yorkshire, for my book *The Penine UFO Mystery* (1983). This was most illuminating.

That case was the second decently investigated abduction in Britain, the first being the Aveley, Essex, episode of October 1974. In this instance Andy Collins did a fine job of researching the abduction of two adults and three children when they drove through a bank of green mist. A superb case file was produced, but the story has been complicated by subsequent behavioral changes in the witnesses, then their decision to go incommunicado and start offering almost contactee-style "messages of the new age." I have found them fascinating but untypical.

Alan Godfrey's story is remarkable in many ways. It is similar to that claimed by Herb Schirmer in Nebraska, even to the point of its being initiated by a routine police call concerning cattle. Godfrey lost 15 minutes of time, suffered vehicle impedence and radio interference, sketched the object as it hovered above the road ahead and then found himself with a confused memory and voices in his head. Three other police officers (whom we interviewed) saw a UFO heading straight for the spot where Godfrey claimed abduction minutes later. They reported their observations in complete independence without knowing of his experience, and vice versa. There was also physical evidence in the form of damage to Godfrey's police boot which I saw and was able to photograph before the police

effectively commenced a cover-up and ultimately forced Godfrey to resign.

I have never doubted that this is an impressive case. Godfrey has always struck me as a sincere and reluctant witness (although he has been pressured into some publicity by Harris). The hypnosis sessions revealed memory of a fairly typical onboard medical examination involving small beings with "heads shaped like lamps" and the size of a "five year old lad." But, interestingly, there was one tall humanlike, bearded entity supposedly in control of the affair. It even offered the biblical name of Josef.

It was this curious factor, plus the manner in which Godfrey himself has been reluctant to ascribe the same degree of reality to his hypnosis memory as he does to his decidedly real experience while in his patrol car, that both intrigued and cautioned me.

I have sat in on several of Harris' unpublished cases since 1981 and decided last year (perhaps recklessly) to compile a book on British abduction data. Harris wanted to sign his witnesses up to deals and silence pacts which in one case even led to threats of breach of contract when a girl wrote a story about "my dad and his UFO encounter" for a school project! That kind of desire to restrict data is so outrageously unacceptable that I decided the UFO community was owed sight of this material. I was under no obligation *not* to write about events I personally witnessed, although I have not done so in recent years out of deference to Harris — plus the desire for a quiet life devoid of threats of lawsuits.

But had it just been the half dozen or so Harris cases that needed publication I might have not have chanced this confrontation. I have also been fired to look for further cases myself. While in almost every instance there simply has not been the facility to conduct regression hypnosis (and, believe me, I and a few colleagues have tried to find this kind of assistance) the stories nonetheless have been illuminating.

It is worth remembering that Budd Hopkins' marvelous investigations are virtually unknown in Britain, where media stories about abductions are few, far between and usually generated by Harris far outside the mainstream press. This means that any similarities that were found take on all the more significance. But any differences too could be equally important.

Because I realized that Britain was sure to become tainted in 1988 by the spillover from the Whitley Strieber/Budd Hopkins material, it was wise that I published now what we have available...before everything changed as it undoubtedly will.

That was the philosophy behind my book *Abduction*, recently published by Robert Hale. You may find some of the speculation in the final chapter naive, needlessly fussy or convoluted. If so, then try to understand the difficulties of my upbringing and the inbred reluctance to accept the ETH. More than enough suggestive hints that this is somehow involved do get through. I was forced to reject the psychological theory almost outright and come to terms (no doubt shakily) with the—to me—almost unpalatable conclusion that there *are* two types of real aliens at the root of these cases. For a British ufologist that is virtual heresy.

I know what the response to that will be from my peers in European ufology. I only hope I have been careful and restrained enough for them to see that the facts make this conclusion seem inescapable.

Here are a few illustrations from British cases of why this view has to be entertained. They also cast light on those important crosscultural similarities and differences.

First, one of the Harris cases. In fact, the three women in their mid-20s first wrote to me days after their July 1981 encounter near Telford, Shropshire. They were trying to understand what UFOs were and had come across one of my books. I arranged for a BUFORA investigator, Stephen Banks, to work with them and he produced an excellent report for the files detailing their conscious testimony. This involved the three entering a "conditioning phase" (which I call the "Oz Factor"), suffering car impedence as the UFO hovered nearby and then driving "in slow motion" to the police station where records demonstrated that there had been a time loss.

Harris got himself involved in the case later and several hypnosis sessions (using three different hypnotists) were conducted on the women. Each recalled a memory that in part dovetailed with one another but also differed in terms of the onboard experience. One woman claimed to have simply been "observed," another to have witnessed a humanlike female alien try on her stiletto-healed shoes, and the third to have undergone the classic medical examination by small ugly creatures. In one session (*before* the Kathie Davis case was even reported to Budd Hopkins) one of these women told us that she felt there were deeper memories that would not come out and that something"gynecological" had taken place.

In another case, which occurred in Northamptonshire in November 1978, a late-middle-aged woman had a similar experience (conditioning, head pains, car impedence and time lapse). She had one hypnosis session and as I prepared my book she was most cooperative and tried several experiments that revealed new data. She recalls a scanning process and rejection while on board. This can have no possible reliance on Budd Hopkins' work and was first documented before he published even *Missing Time*, let alone *Intruders*. Its relevance to the genetic experiment theory, however, is made all the more remarkable by my discoveries about a completely independent case which took place only minutes after the elderly woman was rejected. It happened only four miles away and involved four women in their 20s whose car was suddenly impeded by a UFO. I tracked one of them down and although nothing is proven, her response to the affair only adds suggestively to the idea that this could be credibly interpreted as an attempt to find a younger, more suitable victim after a scanning procedure that broke down in the first place.

In almost every case I have traced in which a witness above child-bearing age is abducted, the abduction is aborted. This pattern would be remarkable if we were dealing with a purely accidental or psychological phenomenon.

I also found several impressive cases lurking in data that seemed totally innocuous. In preparing the book I looked deeper and found some that were extraordinary. I always took the precaution of working with another investigator who was uninvolved in abduction research, so it cannot be said my desire to find cases helped to manufacture them.

One case turned up from August 1972 in my local Stockport newspaper. It told how Sandra and Peter Taylor had been driving across the Yorkshire Moors in the early hours when they saw a melon-shaped glowing object on the ground.

This had languished uninvestigated as "just another UFO" for all those years, when by luck and detective work Roy Sandbach and I found the witnesses and received a major surprise. The case turns out to be almost certainly a multiple abduction.

For instance, there was evidence of a time lapse. Sandra Taylor was "conditioned" to get out of the car and walk in a trance toward the UFO. The Ministry of Defense became involved in the case in a strange way and then Sandra began to have dreams in which she was "visited" by a strange little man. Peter Taylor also underwent a major time lapse when driving through the tiny Cheshire village of Daresbury. Inexplicably he ended up 40 miles away one hour later with no idea how or why he got there.

Although he did not know this, Daresbury is locally famous for just one thing. It is where Lewis Carroll wrote his timeless story about a young girl's abduction into an alien realm: *Alice in Wonderland.*

Another feature which this and many other cases turned up was that the witnesses who had experienced abductions had an incredible history of what they believed to be psychic experience. This was usually so extensive and important that this may be no mere coincidence but a crucial clue to our understanding of why they subsequently went through an abduction. Most common were poltergeist events in the home, apparitions and out-of-body sensations, often described as "floatings." I suspect this feature will not appeal to American researchers, but it is no less real.

The case of Karen, a young woman from Liverpool, was initially reported to Peter Hough and me as an interesting psychic phenomenon. But when we went to investigate her "psychic" experience, to our astonishment an abduction was present and clearly interwoven.

Karen had been taken from her bedroom by a tall, blond female entity with a remarkable white complexion. This is another important clue, because many of the British cases describe almost the exact same entity. Shelley, from Bolton, abducted in January 1976 in one of the most studied of British cases, reported an identical figure, although that case was not public knowledge at the time of Karen's revelation.

Karen's case is full of interesting detail. Perhaps the most fascinating is that she became pregnant after an earlier time-lapse experience and lost the baby following a series of what Hopkins calls "wise baby dreams." But there is no way that Hopkins' work influenced her testimony. When Peter Hough and I first interviewed Karen, *Intruders* was yet to be published, we had not heard of his "wise baby" material and Karen's account meant as little to us as it evidently did to her.

These are just some of the things my work uncovered. Of course, there were many other cases too. In fact I compiled a catalogue of British abductions and at least a paragraph on each of these cases is featured in the book. Some, such as those stories briefly referred to above, are discussed in considerably more detail, of course.

It was impossible for me to escape the implications of all these things. While the fact that there *are* differences between British and American cases must not be overlooked and has to be incorporated into our understanding of this phenomenon, the fact that there are so many extensive similarities is just as important.

I ask ufologists in Europe to retain an open mind when reading these astonishing data and be prepared to consider that they *may* suggest that abductions *really* happen. Equally, I urge American abduction specialists to be aware of the global perspective to this subject and the lessons it can teach.

I still believe that there is more to it than the simple ETH, and in my book I do try to explain why. But simple or not, there has got to be an alien component to these cases. It is the only resolution that makes any sense.

Review

Jacques Vallee, *Dimensions: A Casebook of Alien Contact.* Chicago: Contemporary Books, March 1988. $17.95. (Reviewed from galleys.)

Those of us waiting for a grand synthesis of contemporary ufology from the author of the pioneering works *Anatomy of a Phenomenon* and *Challenge to Science* will have to wait awhile longer. Vallee's latest is nothing more than a thinly-disguised reprint of *Passport to Magonia* (without the appendix), six chapters of *Invisible College*, and three chapters of *Messengers of Deception*. Some minor cosmetic editing has been performed on the text, embarrassingly mundane incidents (such as the LeRoy, Kansas, calfnapping, the disappearing Gallipoli regiment, and "Snippy") have been removed, and all of the footnotes have been excised to protect the casual reader from distractions. The only new material consists of a few chapter openings, the Introduction, and the Conclusion which is nothing more than shallow speculation on consciousness.—*George M. Eberhart*

The mechanization of UFOs

by Thomas E. Bullard

Thomas E. Bullard, Ph.D., a regular contributor to *IUR*, is a folklorist who lives in Bloomington, Indiana.

The phantom airship reports of the late 19th Century herald the modern era of UFOs, a time when the idea of a UFO and the idea of a machine are one and the same. What is true today has not always been so, and most people throughout much of history have been content with unmechanized aerial wonders. The change of mind that filled the skies with unidentified flying hardware is a transition worth investigation. Ron Miller's article in the May/June 1987 issue of *IUR* ("Jules Verne and the Great Airship Scare") details the influences of science-fiction literature and aviation experiments on airship beliefs. As a supplement to his argument, this article will trace the evolution of the now-familiar airship image from a different direction, by following the changes in reported UFO descriptions and interpretations during the 19th Century.

UFO history divides into three parts, three periods in which one type of interpretation predominates. From the beginning until the 18th Century, anything strange in the sky was supernatural. Ancient, medieval and Reformation-era historians recorded "portents" and "prodigies" as evidence that God or the gods warned of coming events and showed their will to mortals with signs in the sky. The events at Fatima in 1917 and various religious apparitions or ghostly lights today demonstrate that some people still accept a supernatural explanation for some strange occurrences, but this interpretation has lost its once universal hold.

When the scientific worldview gained ground during the 17th and 18th Centuries, so did the notion that anything seen in the sky had a natural origin. This transition was less revolutionary than the change of names implies. Ancient and medieval writers were far more sophisticated than we often give them credit and many of them understood strange sights in the sky in naturalistic terms, though they might allow two causes for a phenomenon, one a natural origin for events, the other a supernatural significance in the timing of their appearance. The change ushered in by rationalistic science was a strict adherence to the naturalistic side and denial of any additional meaning. The natural world was a comprehensible world. Everything had to fit into a recognized category. Strange sights continued to appear and scientists to shoehorn them into conventional categories, often with embarrassing results. In this way the class of anomalies was born, and Charles Fort provided with his life's work.

The third possibility, that of an artificial device, intruded quite suddenly and unexpectedly into the naturalistic era. The dream of human flight traces back to ancient times, but the reality appeared no earlier than 1783, when the Montgolfier brothers sailed their first balloons. Balloons were at once a sensation and a disappointment, a wonder always able to draw a crowd, but not a flying machine the pilot could power and steer. With ingenious determination early experimenters tried to overcome these limitations by elongating the gas bag or providing sails, wings or propellers, but by the beginning of the 19th Century the failure of all these attempts proved that no easy solution to the problem of aerial navigation would be forthcoming, Not until 1900 would Count Zeppelin sail the first truly practical dirigible airship.

Heavier-than-air flight lagged only a little behind developments in ballooning as William Cayley laid down all the necessary principles for controlled flight between 1799 and 1809. His experiments solved the problems of lift and stability, but lack of an engine powerful enough relative to its weight to drive the airplane foiled a manned flight with this kind of device until 1903.[1]

A full century separated the first excitement over controlled flight from its actual achievement. During this hundred years of hope and frustration countless experimenters, some legitimate and some crackpot, sought to be the first to solve this problem which became the Holy Grail of the era, the most sought-after invention in an age of inventiveness. Claimants to the title were easy to find. Somebody was always ready to rush into print with the boast that his flying machine actually flew, or his design was so good it could not help flying. Newspapers loved these stories and printed great numbers of them. Scientific and popular magazines published heroic illustrations of implausible devices soaring through the air, sustained aloft by pure imagination. Flying machines became a staple of science-fiction writing and also a butt of jokes, perhaps the most famous being J. T. Trowbridge's doggerel poem "Darius Green and His Flying Machine." Perhaps no invention in history was longer and more confidently anticipated than the flying machine, or subject to more ridicule.

The tides of enthusiasm rose and fell, with rumor and expectation sometimes cresting high enough to leave the impression that hope had at last become reality. One such period was the mid-1840s, when publicity for William S. Henson's "Aerial Steam Carriage" led many people to accept that this machine had actually flown. Illustrations show it as extraordinarily like a modern airplane, only it sails over the early Victorian landscape with pennants and the British flag

waving from nose and wingtips.[2] In April 1844 Edgar Allan Poe authored his "Balloon Hoax" story, alleging that some famous balloonists of the day had crossed the Atlantic from England to South Carolina in a sort of airship. As the 19th Century neared its close and clear success still eluded the inventors, a note of impatience entered newspaper discussions by editorialists who wanted to see the problem of aerial navigation solved as "the crowning marvel of the 19th Century." The pressure was on, and in 1896-97 this wish seemed to come true just in the nick of time with the advent of the great phantom airship.[3]

The latter half of the 19th Century was a fertile time for rumors to spring up. Telegraph lines linked the entire country and news could spread at electric speed—and so could hoaxes. Bored office boys sometimes filled out dispatch forms with fabricated news and telegraphed the story nationwide. Lying was a fine art in this country, cultivated in the tall tales of the pioneers and practiced later by newspaper humorists and tale-tellers. Ambrose Bierce honed his skills as a writer of macabre stories during his days as a newspaperman, while on a less exalted plane every local paper ran its seasonal quota of snake and fish stories, or reports of sea and lake serpents. Joe Mulhatton, variously described as a traveling salesman or as an "erratic newspaperman," built a national reputation on his talents for making up fantastic yarns. One described a meteor found with fossils inside, and another from 1887 had him pointing out the planet Venus to a gullible bystander as the Star of Bethlehem returned.[4]

An estimate of 3,000 reports of phantom airships during 1896-97 is no exaggeration. This wave reached the dimensions it did with the help of communications and the media as well as expectations and hopes, but the actual substance of the wave is these reports. Many thousands of people saw or thought they saw or said they saw this ship. Their descriptions make it out to be an implausible contraption, a combination of gas bag, steel hull, bat wings, fanwheel propellers and powerful searchlight, but only the combination of features is unique to this wave. Most of the individual parts have antecedents in earlier observations. The events of 1896-97 simply summarized and magnified ideas accumulated throughout the century.

A mechanistic turn of mind began to appear in reports of naturalistic anomalies from an early date. An eyewitness to an unusual meteor in July 1829 compared its motions to the "fluttering of a kite or the rocking of an air balloon."[5] A luminous body seen in Ireland during the summer of 1856 was considered by some to be a comet, by others to be a light hoisted by a kite.[6] Perhaps the ideal transitional story came from Chile in April 1868, with the description of a living creature combined with mechanical elements. As a group of miners left their work for the day they saw a great bird in the sky. This bird had a long serpentine body, immense wings and a head like a locust. The eyes shone like burning coals and brilliant scales covering the body clashed together with a metallic sound.[7] True or false, this story exemplifies a description divided between the naturalistic and artificial worlds. Whether the object represents a machine described in partly animate terms or an animal described in partly mechanical terms, machinery has intruded into a description of something extraordinary in the sky.

The most straightforward forerunner among sightings drew on a valid possibility of the period and reported a stray balloon of unknown origin. John Martin, a Texas farmer, gained immortality of a sort in January 1878 for being the first to compare an aerial object with a saucer, in this case a supposed balloon passing overhead. In September 1889 another Texan sighted a balloon approximately 100 feet in length and with a car attached, near Paris, Texas. An object like a half-deflated balloon with chains hanging beneath it passed over Bermuda in August 1885.[8]

Stray balloons were necessarily daylight observations, but a few overcame this limitation by showing lights. In England a balloon escaped during a storm in December 1881, carrying Walter Baden Powell, a Member of Parliament. This balloon was never found, but during the next week many reports came in, from diverse places, of balloon sightings. Some arrived from as far away as Spain, where drifting sparks were seen in the air at night and associated with this lost aerostat.[9] The most extensive series of lost balloon reports flanks the great airship wave and concerns the polar expedition of Swedish explorer S. A. Andree. Andree planned to reach the pole by balloon in the summer of 1896, and the Swedish government asked the governments of other northern countries to report his passage. The word spread and many people were on the lookout. In the summer and fall of 1896 several reports of a great balloon came from Canada. In fact, Andree had decided to postpone his expedition until the following summer. He set out in July 1897 and immediately another flurry of reports came out of Canada, Scandinavia and even Siberia, some of them not only describing a balloon but adding such odd features as a bright light, several colored lights, or a luminous rope dangling beneath.[10]

Perhaps the most notable feature of airship reports is a brilliant searchlight, and several sources contribute to this hallmark. A luminous ball described as both a meteor and a "lighthouse in the sky" hovered, then moved up and down, then repeated these maneuvers over Tennessee in the spring of 1849.[11] Three citizens of Crawfordsville, Indiana, one of them a minister, watched a white, formless creature 18 feet long and eight feet wide in the early hours of September 5, 1891. This thing flew and writhed in the air, seemingly propelled by pairs of side fins. No head was visible, but the witnesses reported a great flaming eye.[12] Then on July 2, 1893, a group of Tacoma fishermen told a tale of a sea serpent flashing brilliant lights from bands surrounding its body.[13]

Again balloons offer the closest predecessor to the head light in the widespread and persistent rumor of the

"Edison Star." Thomas Edison experimented with wireless telegraphy in the summer of 1885 at his Menlo Park, New Jersey, laboratory. Achieving his best results at night, he sent up balloons to carry the sending and receiving apparatus and sometimes attached lights to the balloons to keep track of them. A rumor started from these experiments and it was to persist until at least 1910. When Venus appeared as a bright evening star in January 1886, Edison began receiving letters from people asking if he was in fact sending a brilliant light attached to a balloon up to a height of several miles. These letters became chronic with each appearance of Venus, and in the spring of 1887 (when Joe Mulhatton was describing the planet as the Star of Bethlehem) thousands of people in New York City gazed at the "Wizard's" newest invention. Some writers simply affirmed that they saw his "star," others asked if it was truly his, and a few begged him to settle a bet over the nature of the light. Edison seldom responded, but when he did he replied with a terse statement that the light was Venus and he had nothing to do with it. Throughout the 1890s and the first decade of this century the letters continued to roll in and public excitement sometimes reached such a pitch that newspapers lamented the public's ignorance of astronomy.[14]

By the early 1890s the "electric balloon" slipped out of Edison's hands and sailed west. An editorial written during the 1897 airship wave recalled sightings of a brilliant light attached to a balloon and sent miles high, supposedly as a part of the 1893 Columbian Exposition in Chicago but in fact Venus once again.[15] Then these balloon sightings became rampant early in 1897. Near the end of January people in Harrisburg and Hanover, Pennsylvania, thought they saw a light raised by balloon from Pittsburgh, while at the same time observers in Glens Falls, New York, thought the light was a Syracuse company's advertisement lifted eight miles high by a kite (NASA please take note). At the beginning of February citizens of Montreal and other towns in Quebec saw a light supposed to be a Signal Corps experiment sent up from Syracuse. In mid-March it was the turn of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, people to see the Pittsburgh light; then late that month the rumor shifted to northern Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin and the point of origin to St. Paul. Maryland witnesses got into the act at the end of the month, and at the beginning of April Massachusetts and Maine residents watched an experimental light sent up from Mount Washington. Later in the month when the airship was all the rage, people in Berrien Springs, Michigan, again found the electric balloon, this time as an advertisement for a local soap company. Venus deserves the blame in every case.[16]

Heavier-than-air UFOs are far rarer than balloons, but instances do exist and they suggest the source of the flapping wings often reported on airships. The summer of 1880 provided several examples. On July 28 two men in Louisville, Kentucky, saw what appeared to be a man in the air surrounded by machinery and staying aloft by operating wings or fans. The same day several residents of Madisonville, Kentucky, saw a similar object. On September 2 a buglike device passed through the air over Coney Island and witnesses spoke of a man operating wings to fly. A flying device also appeared over St. Louis during this time.[17]

An actual dirigible UFO story came out of Galisteo Junction, New Mexico, in March 1880. According to this account, several men heard voices and music in the sky and looked up to see a fish-shaped balloon with a car underneath and a fanwheel to guide it. Several objects fell from the car and were found the next day by witnesses. The tale resolved itself when a young Chinaman came to town and recognized the objects as tokens from his fiancee, who arrived on an airship invented in China.[18] Though implausible, this story includes the cigar-shaped craft, fanwheel and sound of voices so common in 1896-97.

The first known wave of true phantom airships occurred in 1892, not in this country but in Russian Poland. In March of that year border tensions between Germany and Russia were acute. A spy hunt was underway in Russia and spring military maneuvers led to speculation that a war might break out. Then reports from border towns and as deep inside the country as Warsaw told of a steerable balloon approaching from the Prussian border and following railroads, then some hours later returning to Germany. The balloon carried a powerful searchlight and beamed it down on Warsaw for nearly an hour one night, and "the curious were thrown into no little excitement in all the houses on every street." A balloon appeared over the fortress in Kovno and soldiers there opened fire. The usual interpretation was that the Germans inspected military installations from an airship, though some skeptics argued that the balloons were Russian or that the lights were nothing but stars.[19] It seems the skeptics never invent a new line.

Although most explanations for the 1896-97 airship assumed a secretive inventor experimenting with his flying machine at night, an alternative with particular relevance for modern UFOs also appeared with the idea that the airship came from another planet. Three of the most famous airship tales advanced this theme: The Kansas calfnapping story included farmer Alexander Hamilton's assertion that the beings on board looked like nothing from earth; a Missouri man who met "Adam and Eve" as they sat beside their airship said they indicated that they came from Mars; and the Aurora, Texas, crash left the body of an unearthly being suspected of being a Martian.[20] Mars had stood high on the list of likely inhabited planets ever since the Italian astronomer Giovanni Schiaparelli discovered long thin lines designated canals in 1877. The Mars question appeared often in the news after 1894, when the American astronomer Percival Lowell built an observatory in Flagstaff, Arizona, and immediately bombarded the scientific and popular press with his ideas that the canals were the work of an advanced but dying civilization.[21]

A story of extraterrestrial visitation told for true occurs as early as October 1877, coming from a chemist in Carcarana, near Rosario, Argentina. He reported that he found a large

aerolite (meteorite) and dug into it. When he and his companions entered a hollow chamber inside, they found the mummified remains of a being with a triangular-shaped head, no hair, a small mouth and a snoutlike nose. A silver plate depicted the solar system and gave prominence to the fourth planet, so the discoverers concluded that the being came from Mars. By all indications the aerolite had been on earth a long time and the author speculated that it was a Martian tomb somehow dislodged from that planet and fallen to earth. The *New York Times* editorialized on this story after finding it in a Peruvian paper almost a year later. The writer remarked on what feeble liars the Peruvians were compared with Americans, but admitted that we had the advantages of early and persistent training in the art, especially during an election year.[22]

Then on June 6, 1884, some cowboys near Benkelman, Nebraska, saw a great meteor fall to earth and skid across the ground before coming to rest in a deep ravine. In its path it left fragments of cogwheels and other machinery, still glowing with intense heat. The heat of the main object was so great that one man who faced it too long even at a distance of 200 feet fell unconscious, his face blistered and his hair singed. All night the object glowed, but the next day visitors could see that it was cylindrical and 50 or 60 feet long. Then the following afternoon a rainstorm struck and when it passed, the meteor was gone, melted except for jellylike pools. The *Lincoln Daily Journal* hazarded that "the unusual object of wonder must be an air vessel belonging originally to some other planet which sailed too far from its orb and after wandering in space has at last been caught by the attraction of the earth and drawn to it."[23]

In all likelihood the cases cited here amount to a tip of the iceberg and many more such stories lie hidden in old newspapers, stories which helped charge their readers' imaginations with ideas of how a flying machine should look and act. This does not mean that every witness remembered some antecedent and merely copied his observation from it. Only one newspaper in 1897 recalled the Russian airships of just five years before[24] and a few more mentioned the electric balloons; but if specific memory was short, a general image had grown and matured for a whole century. Throughout these formative years the possible and probable image of an artificial aircraft took shape. All during this time a combination of experimentation, fiction, belief and observational reports prepared people for the flying machine to come and taught them what to expect long before it first took wing.

Sometimes observation merely echoed an already-familiar reality. Sometimes the machine became a convenient metaphor for describing an event the witness accepted as natural. Yet with growing boldness over the years imagination overstepped reality and created a fanciful world of belief where Edison hoisted arc lights miles above the earth and some inventor flapped his way across the Kentucky skies. Ever more extravagant notions began to seem credible, even respectable, as truth, fiction and belief built new expectations on the foundations of the old. Believers clung to these ideas with stubborn determination despite every denial, because a whole system of support upheld them. Experiments and fiction showed the possibilities, eyewitness accounts described realities. Never mind that this reality was one measure of Venus and two of faith—people saw the thing with their own eyes, so it had to be real. Here was a particularly dangerous combination: People did not just expect to see something extraordinary and thereafter observe with dispassionate objectivity; they expected with such confidence that even an ordinary sight took the shape of the extraordinary belief. Belief had grown powerful enough to shape observation and observation thereafter confirmed belief. As the circle closed the flying machine became a self-sustaining myth. All the airship wave needed was a well-publicized observation like the Sacramento light in the sky reported on November 17, 1896. The press spread this story nationwide and heightened expectations. Then imagination swung into action and the only other necessary ingredient was a fire balloon or planet, some visible nucleus around which the ideas prepared for a century could condense. Condense they did from coast to coast, and 3,000 reports later the great airship wave of 1896-97 was history.

Does this hypothetical interpretation mean that nothing truly extraordinary appeared? Not at all. This interpretation can say only that a long and gradual process of development stored up the ideas for an airship, until all the parts of the story were in place by the end of the century. Then people began describing objects in great numbers with all these ideas displayed, the balloon principle applied to a dirigible, the wings and propellers of airplanes, and lights for travel in the dark, so in any practical sense the aircraft combined a preposterous overkill of features. Nothing was wanting for either lighter- or heavier-than-air flight. Never before or since was the airship so elaborate; earlier the synthesis was incomplete, while later the example of real flying machines set bounds on imagination. What the witnesses really beheld goes unanswered. Beyond a doubt some saw Venus or a star, others a fire balloon or kite, and some of course saw no further than the inner gleam of a good joke.

If any spaceships or any other sort of machines were flying about at the same time, their fate would be the same: Those beliefs that could tie wings to a star would reshape these legitimate aircraft just as surely, and make them as aeronautically unlikely as we now see the phantom airships to be. Whatever reality the airship had, it was only part perception. The rest was expectation and belief, and the result was a sight fit for the spirit of the times, an airship well tried in the imagination.

History teaches here that reality has considerable pliancy. Observers in every past age have seen the UFO they expected to see, not necessarily the object that was really there. For us today the question must be: are we so arrogant that we can think ourselves somehow exempt?

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Letter

To the editor:

I would like to comment on Budd Hopkins' "What They're Doing to Us" (*IUR*, September/October). In many ways I sympathize with Hopkins' dismay over the psychological damage done to innocent UFO abductees. But his indictment of alien entities as "indifferent to human suffering" and his assumption that they are *capable* of stopping human wars, famine and disease say more about Hopkins' expectations than they do anything else. Isn't casting these aliens as potential saviors a yearning relevant to humans' wishing to deliver themselves from suffering?

Hopkins' charges against them — damned if they do, damned if they don't — are simplistic. These are extraordinary beings, yes, but must they also be omnipotent too, with God-like mercy? If they were to intervene overtly in our affairs, the consequences could be much more drastic than anything that has happened to abductees thus far. Considering all our hopes *and fears* as a race — and the ways in which we have been observed and studied by the alien entities — I think that, far from being "remote from human emotions," they may know us only too well.

Jerry A. Modjeski
Minneapolis

Coming in *IUR*...

Abductions: does psychology have the answer?
by Robert E. Bartholomew and
Keith Basterfield

***Skeptical Inquirer* debunks MJ-12: or, surely you're joking, Mr. Klass**
by Stanton T. Friedman

Abductions and crashes: what do we really know?

by Richard Hall

Richard Hall, *IUR* consulting editor, is author of the forthcoming book *Uninvited Guests: A Documented History of UFO Sightings, Alien Encounters, and Coverups* in which he examines reported UFO abductions and crash/retrievals within the broad context of 20th Century UFO history.

Are the aliens so awesomely powerful that they can intrude at will in human affairs, tamper with our minds and bodies, and display "magic technology?" Or are they so "human" and vulnerable and only moderately technologically advanced over us that they periodically crash and lose personnel and craft to human inspection and autopsy?

Stated in these extreme terms, the apparent contradiction between abduction reports and crash/retrievals becomes more obvious. Perhaps it is not really a contradiction and some missing piece of the puzzle will emerge to explain the seeming discrepancy. But on the face of it, the two types of reports imply very different interpretations of the UFO phenomenon — if we think of the UFO phenomenon in terms of the extraterrestrial hypothesis.

Needless to say, there is far too much posturing and position-taking going on in the UFO-research community given that none of us can really prove anything one way or the other. It never ceases to amaze me that many people (including close friends and respected colleagues) are absolutely adamant that crash/retrieval cases in general, and MJ-12 in particular, are obvious hoaxes, whereas they willingly embrace abduction cases and the implied notion that "aliens" walk through walls, accost us in our bedrooms and use us as laboratory specimens! Which of these two scenarios is *inherently* more incredible? I would have to say no contest; abductions win hands down. But I refuse to play one against the other and instead insist that *both* be carefully and objectively examined.

Abduction cases have extremely unpleasant implications for the human race. If the evidence accumulated by Budd Hopkins and others is valid, we are at the mercy of alien intruders and will have little or nothing to say about the outcome of the interplanetary encounter now underway. Charles Fort would be proven correct: We *are* property. We will be taken over or assimilated into some extramundane culture against our will, having no choice in the matter.

Yet the evidence for abduction cases (human testimony, psychological testing, physical marks) is such that the notion of aliens intruding intimately into our lives cannot be simply discarded unless someone can explain it all convincingly in terms of abnormal psychology. Be it noted, however, that the "evidence" (for the most part) is *human testimony*; people claim that events happen to them and we attempt to establish the individual credibility of the witnesses and the patterns revealed by their testimony, especially when it can be shown that their stories are truly independent.

Hopkins has now clearly established that "abductees" include a cross-section of society (average people, businessmen and women, military personnel, police officers, scientists, psychologists). Crash/retrieval witnesses, on the other hand, tend to be a more select group — as would be expected if the stories are true. Only military and intelligence-agency personnel would be likely to have inside information about crash/retrievals if they really have happened and have been covered up in accordance with government policy. In fact, virtually all of the credible crash/retrieval informants have exactly the sort of military/intelligence background that would fit a plausible scenario.

What would constitute evidence or proof of alien abductions? Of crash/retrievals? UFO researchers need to address these questions carefully and attempt to conduct meaningful tests of both hypotheses. We are quick to condemn scientists for their failure to be "scientific" — to study the evidence objectively before passing judgment. We need, however, to practice what we preach. In my view, one of the most fundamental principles of scientific method is *suspension of judgment* in the absence of overwhelming evidence forcing us to an obvious conclusion.

We have no strong evidence — nothing approximating utterly compelling and entirely conclusive evidence — to establish the truth of either human abductions by aliens or alien accidents resulting in bodies and hardware in human possession. Therefore we should suspend judgment and engage in vigorous, objective, open-minded inquiry rather than staking out positions. The only true scientific "position" — regardless of what we might suspect is the truth — is suspended judgment, until thoroughgoing scientific investigation can be accomplished.

The Fund for UFO Research (of which I am a board member) considers both topics worthy of support and I heartily concur in this judgment. The Fund has supported Bill Moore, Stan Friedman and Len Stringfield in crash/retrieval studies and Budd Hopkins, Ted Bloecher and Eddie Bullard in abduction case studies. Only a broad research approach to these perplexing phenomena makes any sense. Otherwise we end up engaging in ego games and pretensions rather than scientific research.

Results of the CUFOS associates survey

by Mark Rodeghier

Mark Rodeghier is president and scientific director of CUFOS.

Last December CUFOS mailed a survey to the readers of *IUR* designed to gather information on a variety of topics. We hoped to find out what you did and didn't like about *IUR*, about your past history as a CUFOS associate, suggestions on how to improve our work, some information about you, and a request for volunteers to assist with specific tasks. The results have now been tabulated.

About 200 questionnaires have been returned, and we believe that is a sufficient number to make some reasonable inferences. Actually, the response rate of around 20 percent is quite good for a mailed survey with no return envelope. The magnitude of response is a good first indicator that CUFOS has a dedicated group of supporters.

We were interested in your impression of the content and style of *IUR*. Question one asked which subjects you find most interesting. Many people checked all nine listed categories, although case reports/investigations had the most responses, with 76 percent checking that category. Even UFO history was noted by 36 percent of the respondents. It does appear that those intrigued by the UFO phenomenon are often interested in all its various manifestations.

This conclusion is further supported by the results of the next question on reasons people enjoy reading *IUR*. Fully 41 percent of the respondents checked "all of the above," which includes a mixed group of editorials, abduction articles, book reviews, and case reports, among others. Updates on sightings again led all responses with 59 percent. The lowest category, book reviews, still received 23 percent of the responses.

Editor Jerome Clark and the staff of *IUR* can, with little difficulty, place book reviews and many other types of articles in each issue, but updates on sightings can't be so easily arranged when there are few recent unexplained sightings. This issue does include the second part of Don Schmitt's summary piece on the Belleville sightings, so it is not impossible to find such material. But editorial policy will continue to be rigorous concerning case reports, and only the best investigations of true unknowns will find their way into the pages of *IUR*.

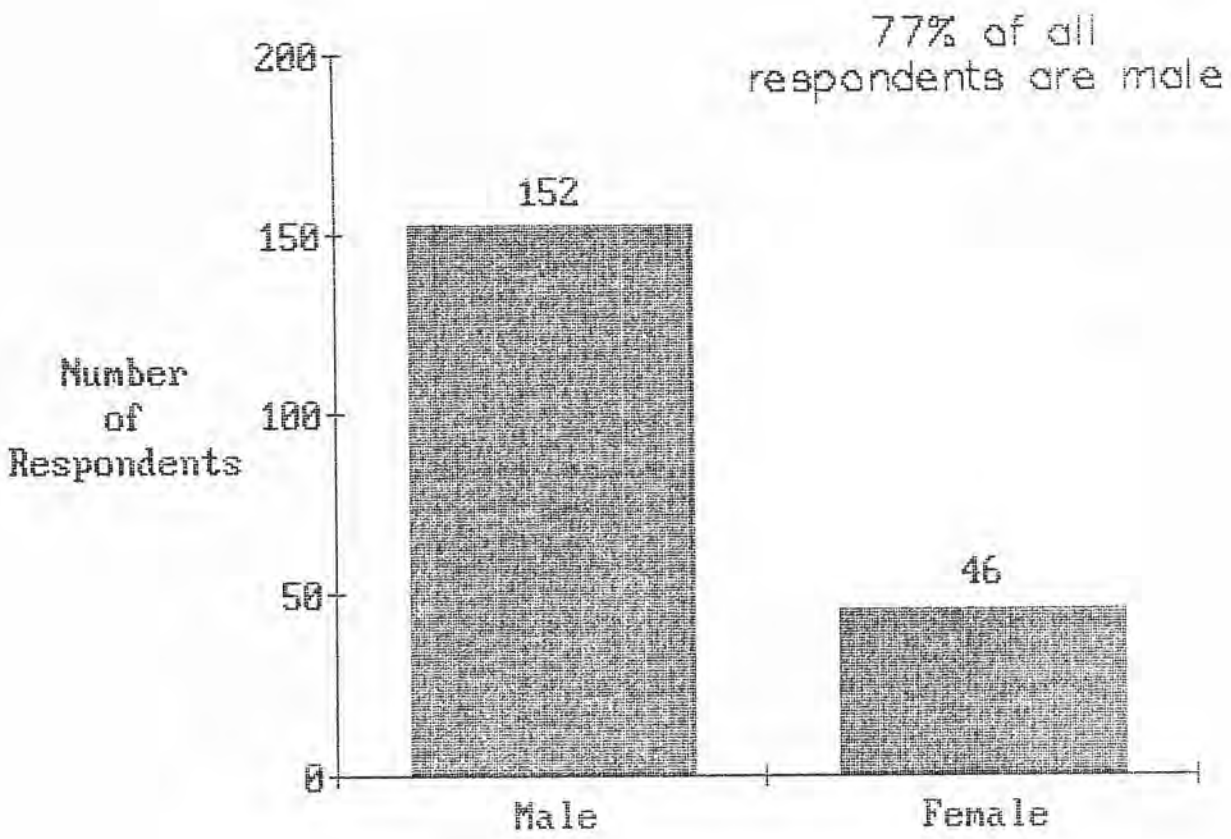
We next asked for comments on how the publication could be improved. The results are similar to those discussed above, though here more requests for information on military activity and UFOs received the most responses, 50 percent. The next category was the ubiquitous case reports, checked on 46 percent of the questionnaires. People are also interested in overseas UFO activity, with a 34-percent response. Fewer readers cared to read about people involved with CUFOS (14 percent).

The average period that someone has been an associate of CUFOS is about 6.5 years, but 20 percent of our readers are in their first year. Many of you have purchased books or reprints from CUFOS (56 percent), more than we suspected. Fully 24 percent of you claim to have conducted a UFO investigation during the past three years, again a number higher than we would have guessed. Since not everyone who answered in the affirmative is either a CUFOS or MUFON investigator, some associates are engaging in freelance investigation. If you are one of those persons, remember that only data collected in a systematic manner are useful for the serious study of the UFO phenomenon. If you are interested in applying to become a CUFOS investigator, please send us a note and we'll put you in touch with Robert Boyd, our investigator coordinator.

We asked an open-ended question about what else CUFOS should be doing. We received dozens of suggestions, a few even stating we were doing just fine as is. Rather than bask in our laurels, we plunged ahead and read the remaining responses. About 11 percent of you felt we should have a more visible public image and that we should bring ufology and the work of ufologists more before the press and public. We have been working toward that goal during the past year, trying to take advantage of the renewed interest in the subject. For example, with each issue of *IUR* we are now issuing a press release which highlights one article. We also are cultivating relationships with certain members of the media to gain a ready outlet for our ideas and information.

Others wanted us to increase scientific involvement (seven percent), do more investigations (seven percent), and hold another conference (five percent). Many people did not respond to this question, though, leaving us to wonder if the nonresponses were caused by lack of interest or difficulties in offering us advice. If you have good ideas you didn't put on the questionnaire, or you didn't complete the form, or you simply want to give us a piece of your mind, don't hesitate to drop us a line. We truly want to hear from you, and we do seriously consider all advice offered.

The bar charts and pie chart on the next pages graphically illustrate some of the demographic results. First, note the education distribution. Many readers have attained a college degree or gone on to graduate study, about 60 percent total.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respondents are male
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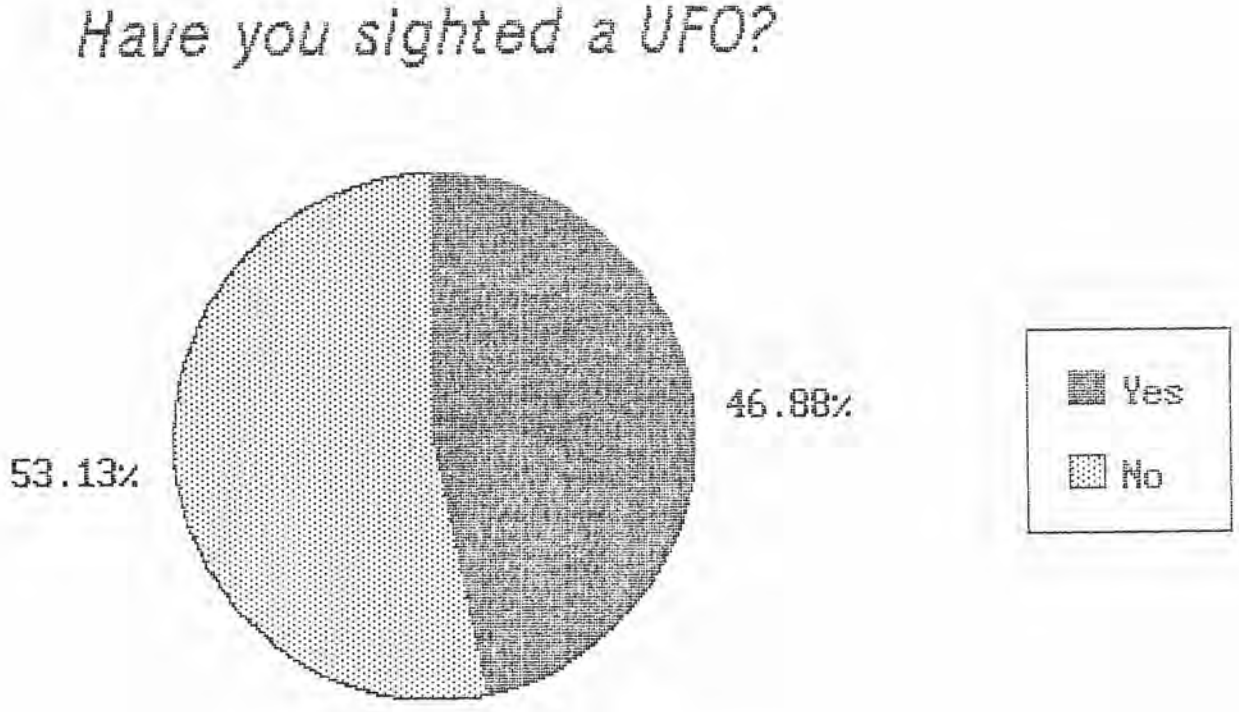
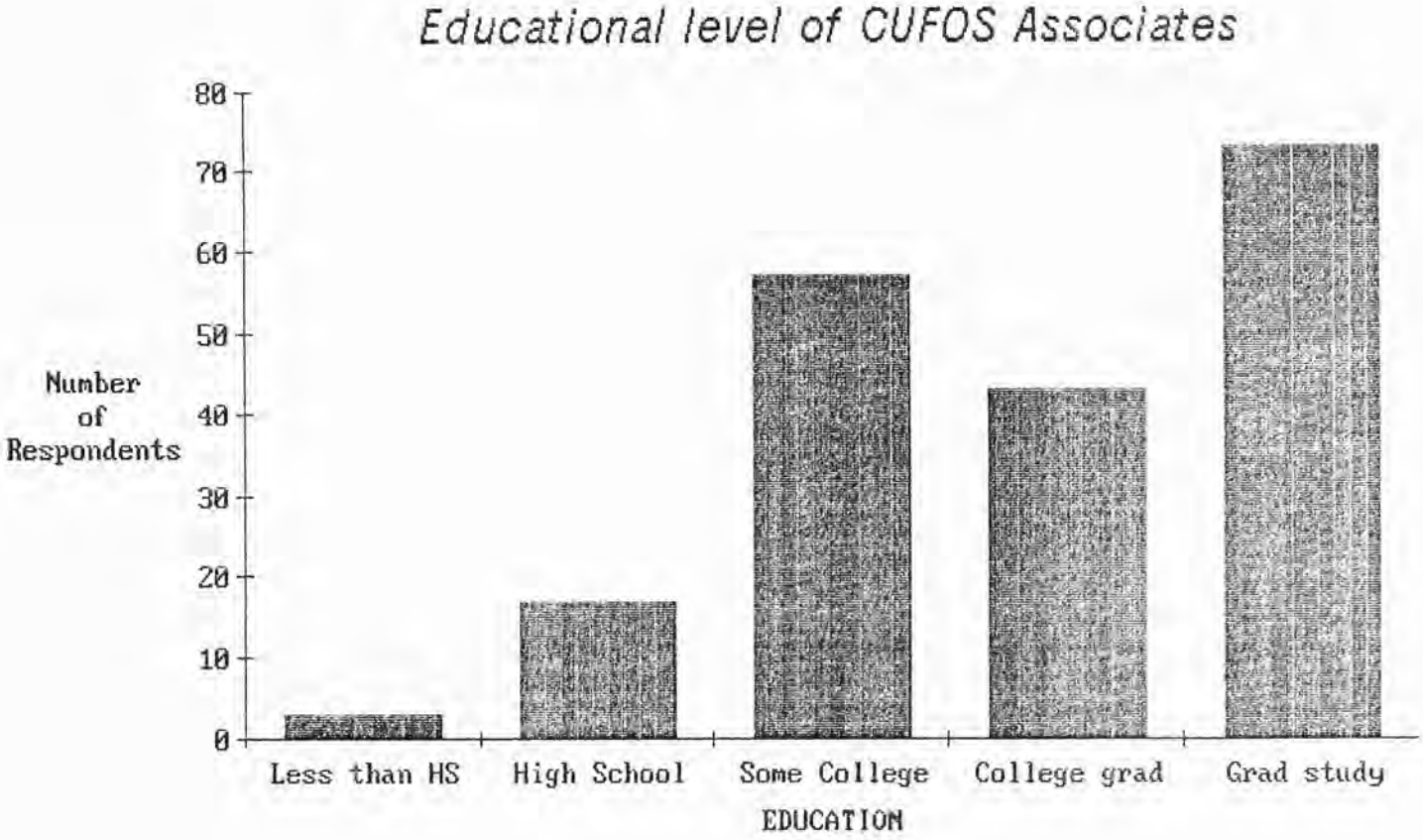

Have you sighted a UFO?
53.13%
46.88%
Yes
No



This figure is much higher than the national statistics; about 20 percent of all Americans have a college degree or greater. *IUR* readers are well-educated by any standard, and the editors have attempted to present serious, informed articles to match the readership characteristics. CUFOS is encouraged by the generally high quality of its supporters.

Second, note that 77 percent of all respondents are male. This is generally true for all organizations in ufology, and among those most active in the subject, the proportion of females is even lower. What is more astounding is the parallel between UFO witnesses and *IUR* readers. In most large scale studies of the UFO phenomenon, the sex distribution of males to females is three to one, just as it is for CUFOS associates. I found that ratio in my study of vehicle interference events, even when I counted just the drivers of the vehicle.

Is there any hidden significance in these numbers? I think we can gain some insight by first looking at the pie chart depicting the number of people who believe they have sighted a UFO they couldn't explain. An amazing 47 percent of the respondents answer that question in the affirmative. This result compares to recent Gallup polls that found fewer than 10 percent of Americans believe they have sighted a UFO. The huge difference between 10 percent and 47 percent can be understood if we see the UFO experience as a trigger for stimulating a person's interest in the subject. Most people who call or write us have had some kind of UFO experience, and they are often surprised when I (and others) at CUFOS tell them we have not had an experience, but are nevertheless committed to the serious study of the topic. Having a UFO sighting is probably the best means of becoming interested in the subject, and one way of demonstrating that interest is in becoming an associate of CUFOS.

How does this explain the sex distribution of *IUR* readers? The answer lies in additional studies we did with the data, looking for any relationship between age, income, education, gender and sighting (or nonsighting) of a UFO. The data are clear: there is no strong relationship (in a statistical sense) between all those demographic indicators and the experience of having a UFO sighting. The consensus is that males have more sightings than females because they are more often out and about at times and places when sightings are more likely to occur. Thus, *IUR* has more male readers because more males see UFOs, and the UFO sighting itself indirectly causes people to do things such as read UFO newsmagazines.

There are few differences by sex or education concerning what UFO topics are most appealing to readers. The largest difference concerns abduction reports, where females and those with less education are more interested than their counterparts. I have no ready explanation for this result.

Many of you volunteered your services or talents to CUFOS. We have already contacted a few, and we will be contacting more of you as time permits. I want to make special mention of one associate, Vince T. Migliore, who volunteered to do the coding and analysis of the questionnaire data for CUFOS. Our special thanks to Mr. Migliore. And our thanks to all associates who took the time to complete and return the questionnaire.

Remember, you don't have to wait for a questionnaire to contact the CUFOS office and officers. We'll be listening.

The Belleville sightings: part two

by Don Schmitt

Don Schmitt, CUFOS board member and *IUR* art director, is an active and experienced UFO investigator.

In this article we will examine an ongoing series of events in the Dane County, Wisconsin, area. These events preceded the activity in the Belleville area discussed in the last issue. Most of these cases, it should be noted, were never reported in the press. In other words, neither the current nor the past flap of sightings influenced the other.

* * *

UFOs have often demonstrated unusual light beam characteristics. What may be an example of this took place during the summer of 1974, southwest of the town of Lodi which is just north of Dane County.

It was late evening, the weather clear, with little moonlight. Mr. G, looking out his front door, was surprised by an intensely bright light which just "turned on" from above. The entire hill to the north within the local golf course was lit up like daylight. Mr. G excitedly called for his wife who was working in their kitchen. By the time she joined her husband the strange light had turned off as mysteriously as it had appeared.

It reportedly covered the area of an entire football field. The observers saw no beam or light source. The light itself was described as a pure ray which seemed to radiate from all directions. No shadows were visible and extreme detail could be noted.

Very bright lights of high intensity and pure color or lack thereof generally indicate a narrow range of bandwidth of emission frequencies—a common UFO light characteristic.

A few hours later that same evening a husband and wife driving on Highway 113 just south of Lodi observed a triangular-shaped object with red and blue circular lights suspended beneath it. The object passed within 20 feet above their vehicle, momentarily hovered, then resumed its slow pass overhead. The couple described it as twice the size of their auto with multiple alternating colored lights. Because it was a warm summer evening they had been driving with windows down, but they heard no sound. They watched as the lights disappeared or shut off and the object was gone. Their car was unaffected and they continued their drive home.

It was shortly after this incident to the north in Lodi that a man, Mr. W, saw what he thought were the headlights of a car pulling in his driveway. He went to the back door but it was once again dark. No visitors had arrived, at least via his driveway, so he went out to investigate the prying light. It was about 1:00 A.M. When he saw three very bright points of light fixed horizontally in the black sky, he raced back inside and called his brother who reluctantly agreed to set up his high-powered telescope in their parents' driveway.

Within a half hour the two men were attempting to locate the lights—there were now only two—with the scope. They had some difficulty focusing the piece and the slightest jar necessitated further adjustment. So W was understandably annoyed when he felt his brother strike him from behind. "What the hell you doing?" he snapped. "I almost had it." Then looking away from the eye piece he turned to see his brother pointing upward. Hanging right over them, slowly floating in front of the starlit sky, was a large delta-winged, triangle-shaped object. No lights were visible; yet its undersurface was clearly defined and resembled the metal tube coiling on the rear of a refrigeration unit.

The two stood wide-eyed and open-mouthed as the dark machine silently slid over their parents' house. Extremely low, the object was lost to sight as it moved behind the two-story roofline of their parents' house. Running to the backyard, they abruptly stopped when the soundless vehicle turned, tipped upward at a 45-degree angle, then shot away soundlessly at a fast rate of speed. It was soon lost to sight.

None of these previous experiences were reported. We will see how they relate to more recent activity in this same region.

On the night of November 19, 1985, near Madison, a woman was returning to her home. The streets were deserted and the houses dark. There were few streetlights. Suddenly three lights above a row of trees caught her eyes. At first she assumed they were from a helicoptor. She watched as the configuration descended toward a house on the north side of the street. "I was curious," she said, "because if the craft had continued on its course, it would have crashed into the house."

She pulled over to the curb never taking her eyes off the lights, which made a sharp, graceful 90-degree turn toward the woman's parked automobile. The object ascended several feet in front of the car avoiding the powerlines. The streetlights illuminated one side and she could then make out the object's shape and color. Triangular and black, the craft was the size of a large car with a light shining from its narrow nose. A light on each side was also visible. There were no wings, propellers or visible engines, and the craft moved in complete silence.

Sweeping to the north, the triangle stopped, hovering

Summer 1974: Lodi, Wisconsin

directly over a house. The rear of the object, about half the width of the roof, then faced her. Two white lights flanked the rear with a small red light near one of the lights on the right. Rectangular white lights flashed on the top and blinked in rapid succession. They seemed to move in a circular motion. She described the bottom as slightly convex which adding to the motion of the lights gave it a "saucer" appearance.

"I was frightened," she said, "so I left and called the Madison Police Department."

Sgt. Ray Warner, who calls himself a "born skeptic," remarked, "She was real rational. She definitely saw something. I don't know what, but she saw something."

Three days later, on November 22, a Wisconsin state employee was driving home to DeForest shortly after 5:00 P.M. It was still daylight and the weather was clear. The traffic was normal for a Friday afternoon on Highway CV. Suddenly the driver noticed three white lights hovering 20 to 30 feet above a farmhouse.

"At first I thought it was a helicopter," he said, "and then I realized I didn't know what it was." Curious, he exited off the highway near the Chase Lumberyard and approached the configuration of lights.

As he continued down the road he was soon able to make out a shape. The craft was roughly triangular, with the bottom sloped into contours. It was hanging stationary over a 60-foot-high tree and was perfectly visible as the witness pulled his auto just slightly past the dull gray object. He got out of his car, amazed by what he was seeing. It now was only about 200 feet away. Within seconds the object began to move silently toward the witness.

Gliding slowly, almost directly overhead, the craft slid approximately 100 feet over the road. Impressed by its size and shape (estimated to be about 40 feet across), the witness stood gazing now to the west as the unknown object moved away on a straight trajectory. Smoothly, quickly, it was lost to sight. As usual there was no sound.

Because of the witness' extensive medical, scientific and military background, we found him to be an exceptional witness and he proved a tremendous help in our investigation.

A similarly shaped object was observed by a young lady during this same time period. Unfortunately, because of the emotional effects of the experience to the woman, she has refused to discuss the incident. We have had to rely on a secondhand account from her sister.

We are told that the sister was returning home late on the evening in question when she noticed a triangular shape positioned over a local farmhouse. As she approached the location in her car, she was soon within a couple of hundred feet of the object. Red and white lights blinked intermittently. The object had a window and through the window she could make out the silhouette of a figure. Frightened, she sped home, leaving the strange object and its occupant behind her.

She had the uneasy feeling that she was being watched during the sighting and she suspects that something else happened. She also has reason to believe that she experienced a period of missing time. We hope that in the future she will be willing to discuss her experience with us. For the present, however, the account seems to fit the overall pattern of reports in this area of Dane County.

Our next report takes us to Kenosha County in the southeast corner of the state. The area of concern is only 55 miles from Dane County.

A husband and wife were driving north on Highway 45 from Antioch, Illinois, returning home from a bingo game. It was Tuesday, October 14, 1986, and it was about 11 o'clock. There was little traffic and the sky was clear. Just north of the the small town of Bristol they saw what they took to be a bad car accident up the road ahead. Red and white lights flashed in all directions and the husband slowed their vehicle as they approached the scene. What at first were perceived as police and rescue vehicles now became something else altogether.

It was a huge triangular-shaped object hovering just above the pavement. The red and white lights outlined its outer edge. The couple found themselves parking the car just off the shoulder of the road almost directly beneath the large pyramid suspended over the small hollow where they stopped.

"It was the size of a two-story house and spanned the width of the road," the husband later told us. It was, he said, definitely a machine of some type. In fact, he first thought that it was a military aircraft.

The two got out of their auto and stood staring up at the noiseless object, which was only 30 feet above them. "It was so low that if we would have stood on the roof of the car we

November 22, 1985: near DeForest, Wisconsin

could almost have touched it," they recalled. There was no feeling of fear or apprehension, just utter amazement and intense curiosity.

Behind the flashing lights on the lower surface they were able to make out a grid understructure which confirmed that they were observing a manufactured object, albeit unlike any they had seen before. After two minutes the structure slowly moved to the southeast.

Getting back in the car, the witnesses resumed their drive home, saying nothing about their "interrupted journey." The wife in particular felt disoriented the rest of the way home, and had trouble remembering the trip itself. There was also some confusion about the time of their arrival home. It turned out that they owed the babysitter for an extra hour of time.

We followed the same course of investigation with these reports that we did with those described in Part One. The reports remain unexplained.

As I said at the beginning of this article, most of these cases were never reported to the press, so none could possibly have influenced the other. Yet in a detail indicative of some type of hardware (as opposed to atmospheric effect) witnesses reported the same understructure. Were these conventional aircraft? Unless we learn of new aircraft that are able to hover for extended periods of time and then accelerate away from the scene without making a sound, the answer will have to be no.

Three months later the Belleville flap would begin.

MJ-12 document authentic, says expert

After comparison with letters and other materials known to have been written by Adm. Roscoe Hillenkoetter, Roger W. Wescott, professor of linguistics at Drew University in New Jersey, has concluded that the much-disputed MJ-12 document was composed, as claimed, by Hillenkoetter.

Dr. Wescott, former president of the Linguistic Association of Canada and the United States and first holder, Endowed Chair of Excellence in the Humanities, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, said in an April 7, 1988, letter to Connecticut attorney Robert H. Bletchman, "In my opinion, there is no compelling reason to regard any of these communications as fraudulent or to believe that any of them were written by anyone other than Hillenkoetter himself. This statement holds for the controversial presidential briefing memorandum of November 18, 1952, as well as for the letters, both official and personal."

The MJ-12 document (so called because of its references to an alleged ultrasecret "Operation Majestic-12") arrived one day in December 1984 at the home of Los Angeles television producer Jaime Shandera in an envelope with no return address. Purporting to be a briefing prepared by Hillenkoetter for President-elect Eisenhower, it alleges that the United States government possesses the remains of two crashed UFOs and the bodies of four humanoid occupants.

The secret life of Donald H. Menzel

by Stanton T. Friedman

Stanton T. Friedman, a nuclear scientist and UFO investigator and lecturer, lives in Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada. He has devoted the last decade to research into the Roswell incident and subsequent developments.

Donald Menzel was well-known in ufological circles from the early 1950s on as a total skeptic. He authored or co-authored three debunking books and made frequent public statements asserting that all UFO sightings could be explained. How could he possibly have been a member of a group that was fully aware of the crash of a flying saucer outside Roswell, New Mexico, in July 1947, another crash near the Texas-Mexico border in December 1950, and the recovery within two miles at the Roswell crash site of four alien bodies? How could a Harvard professor of astronomy be part of a high-level military and intelligence cover-up?

The MJ-12 document, which makes these fantastic allegations, arrived in December 1984 at the North Hollywood home of TV producer Jaime Shandera in the form of a roll of 35mm film in a double-wrapped envelope with no return address. The 8x10 prints made from the negatives were clean and showed what purported to be a TOP SECRET briefing document prepared for President-elect Dwight D. Eisenhower. The date of the preparation of the briefing was November 18, 1952. The preparer was Adm. Roscoe H. Hillenkoetter (MJ-1), the first head of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Also on the list besides Menzel were Air Force Gen. Hoyt S. Vandenberg and Adm. Sidney Souers, the first two directors of the Central Intelligence Group which in 1947 became the CIA. MJ-12 member Gen. Nathan Twining was in 1952, at the time of the supposed briefing, the Vice Chief of Staff of the USAF under Vandenberg and had been head of the Air Materiel Command at Wright Field in July 1947. Army Gen. Robert M. Montague was named head of a secret project at Sandia Base near Albuquerque, New Mexico, in July 1947 after being Commander of Fort Bliss, near El Paso, Texas, which included White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico. Gordon Gray had been involved in a review of intelligence operations and was assistant Secretary of the Army and later on the 5412 Committee (Covert Operations) of the NSC. Dr. Jerome Hunsaker had been chairman of the National Advisory Committee on Aeronautics (NACA) and was a real expert on aeronautics at MIT. Dr. Detlev Bronk was an aviation physiologist, president of Johns Hopkins University (1953-1968) and head of the National Academy of Sciences and National Research Council. He served on numerous government committees.

Dr. Vannevar Bush was wartime technology czar as head of the Office of Scientific Research and Development (OSRD) which set up the major projects such as the atomic bomb. After the war he headed the Joint Research and Development Board (JRDB) and was on the War Council and President of the Carnegie Institution in Washington, D.C. A top secret 1950 Canadian memo had already identified him as being involved in UFO- related work. His assistant at the Carnegie Institution was another member of the supposed MJ-12 group, Dr. Lloyd Berkner, an outstanding scientist in a number of areas. A natural for the group was James V. Forrestal, the first Secretary of Defense. According to the document, Forrestal, who died in May 1949, was succeeded in August 1950 by Gen. Walter Bedell Smith, who in 1950 was appointed head of the CIA to succeed Hillenkoetter. All the names made sense except Menzel, even though he is mentioned in the text as pushing for an interstellar origin rather than an interplanetary source such as Mars.

Menzel's role in the UFO controversy had always puzzled me. Here was a famous Harvard astronomer whose reasoning about UFO sightings could be picked to pieces by a college freshman physics major. Over and over again he adjusted the facts to match his explanation, rather than deriving his explanations from the facts at hand. His first book in 1953 was translated into Russian and kept almost a whole generation of scientists in both the U.S.S.R. and the U.S.A. from even nibbling at the UFO phenomenon, especially since it was favorably reviewed by Dr. J. Allen Hynek, another astronomer and the Project Blue Book consultant on UFOs for 20 years.

Menzel even participated in Congressional hearings on UFOs held on July 29, 1968, and in a meeting session on UFOs sponsored by the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Boston in December 1969. His last book (co-authored with psychiatrist and science-fiction writer Ernest Taves, published after Menzel's death in 1976) continued to focus on identified flying objects and misrepresented the facts in several cases.

Besides being puzzled at how such an important astrophysicist could be such a lousy ufologist, I was also mystified by the fact that I found proof in the Air Force files that Menzel had a copy of the largest study of UFOs ever done for the government, *Project Blue Book Special Report 14*, but didn't even mention it in his three books. It covered over 3000

sightings of which more than 600 could *not* be identified by the professional investigators. There were quality evaluations, cross comparisons between unknowns and knowns, and more than 240 charts, tables, and graphs. Why didn't he mention it?

In checking my files on Vannevar Bush after hearing of the briefing document from Shandera and Bill Moore I found a letter to Bush from Robert Proctor, a lawyer for the old and established Boston legal firm of Choate, Hall, and Stewart. It states:

> Dear Dr. Bush:
>
> I am happy to inform you that the air force central loyalty security board has under date of January 11, 1951 advised Dr. Donald H. Menzel and myself of Dr. Menzel's complete clearance with respect to loyalty and security charges brought against him by the U.S. Air Force. The letter of the executive secretary of the board advising him of this determination contains the following paragraph:
>
> "I am pleased to inform you that the board determined that on all the evidence reasonable grounds do not exist for the belief that you are disloyal to the Government of the United States and that reasonable grounds do not exist for the belief that your immediate removal would be warranted by the demands of national security. This decision has been approved by the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (Management)."
>
> I know that you will be hearing directly from Donald Menzel, but I am, in accordance with my commitment to you, advising you immediately of this result because of your great interest in the matter. In doing so, I want to express personally my very sincere appreciation of the all out help which you provided in presentation of his case.
>
> Sincerely yours,
> Robert Proctor

Suddenly, this letter raised a whole host of questions about Menzel. Why was he in danger of losing an Air Force security clearance in the first place? I knew he had been in the Navy during World War II. What connection was there between Bush and Menzel? Why was it important to Bush that Menzel had been cleared of any loyalty difficulties? There was no mention of the loyalty hearings in the *New York Times* though several other McCarthy-era hearings were noted. Freedom of Information requests to various government agencies and the National Archives brought no information. I contacted the law firm and found that there had been more than a full week of hearings in May 1950, that there were over 1,300 pages of testimony, and that one of Menzel's staunchest defenders had been Vannevar Bush! I then determined that in addition to the huge correspondence about UFOs by Menzel at the American Philosophical Society Library in Philadelphia, there were also substantial holdings of his papers at the University of Denver where he had done his undergraduate work, and, not surprisingly, at the Harvard University Archives. The Denver papers had become open for researchers only after his death in 1976.

Access to his papers at Harvard required permission from both the chairman of the astronomy department and the director of the Smithsonian Observatory. It was also necessary to obtain Mrs. Menzel's permission to read his unpublished autobiography at Harvard. Finders Guides were supplied by the University of Denver and Harvard, and a listing of their file folders by the APS Library. Eventually, permission was obtained from the two Harvard people and, during my visit to the Harvard Archives in April 1986, from Mrs. Menzel, who was most charming and cooperative when I visited her in the company of two people connected with Harvard. I must admit that my focus to her was on the loyalty hearings and the major benefit to the country made by scientists in the postwar era, not on flying saucers.

The Finders Guide at Harvard gave no indication of any smoking guns about UFOs or even about Menzel. There was no copy machine in the facility, unlike at the Library of Congress Manuscript Division where a great deal of useful material had been scanned in the past, including some of the papers of Twining, Vandenberg, Bush, Curtis LeMay, Dr. Merle Tuve (close associate of Bush and Berkner) and others. As at all archives, one lists the boxes one wants, goes through them folder by folder, returns them, and requests more, making notes with pencils only and with no paper of mine being brought in. I dictated notes because I could afford to spend only three days at the Library, being scheduled to review James Forrestal's papers at Princeton for the rest of the week. The Fund for UFO Research had agreed to pay the travel expenses for my research project. Thanks to Joan Thompson, who worked in the Harvard astronomy department and has a long-time interest in UFOs, I was able to talk with a number of people in the department.

Starting with his correspondence with President Jack Kennedy, my findings took me completely by surprise. It is clear that Donald Menzel led two lives. The public one was as a famous astronomy professor serving on international committees, leading eclipse expeditions, establishing solar observatories, supervising graduate students, and debunking UFOs. The second life involved consulting work for federal intelligence agencies with primary focus on the National Security Act (NSA) and for more than 30 industrial companies which were following up on the skills developed during World War II concerning radio wave propagation and cryptography and — if we are to believe the MJ-12 document — on interstellar alien craft.

Here are some of the reasons Menzel belonged with the other 11 military and scientific high-security-level members of Majestic-12:

(1) In 1960, Menzel stated in letters to Jack Kennedy that he knew more about and had a longer continuous association with the large and highly classified NSA and its predecessor Navy agency than anyone else in the country. It is now known that the NSA had a UFO connection. It has refused to release 160 UFO documents or even an unexpurgated version of a 21-page TOP SECRET affidavit to a federal judge justifying the withholding of the 160 documents. The version released is about 80-percent expurgated.

(2) Menzel stated to Kennedy that he had had a Navy TOP

SECRET ULTRA security clearance, even at the same time that the USAF was trying to withdraw his much lower level Secret clearance (autobiography and letter).

(3) Menzel had a long association with Dr. Bush dating back to at least 1934, according to both Bush and Menzel. Bush at that time was dean at MIT and working on one of the first analog computers. Menzel was interested in this system for certain astronomical calculations. It is clear from Bush's testimony that Bush had contact with Menzel during the war when he was serving in Washington on various projects and that that association continued after the war, although Bush is careful in his testimony not to get into classified detail since his testimony was unclassified.

(4) Menzel was known for his outstanding discretion with regard to classified material. Many of the people who testified on his behalf at the loyalty hearings, including Dr. Bush, stressed his total trustworthiness with regard to adherence to proper security provisions. I have talked with numerous others who knew Menzel in one way or another, including two different people who worked for him during the war on classified projects. There was unanimous agreement that he was extraordinarily discreet. A close associate of his, who had been his Ph.D. adviser at Princeton, stressed that Menzel never mentioned classified work. Many others stressed that he simply did not mix the unclassified world and the classified world.

(5) Menzel would have been well aware of disinformation as a standard technique used by governments as appropriate. He was aware, for example, of the breaking of the German and Japanese codes during the war. This was of great importance for the Allied victory in that war. He knew that false information often had to be put out to protect various groups.

(6) Menzel had learned Japanese during his work in cryptography. He had even taught cryptography before the war and continued as head of Communications Unit #1 of the U.S. Naval Reserve in Cambridge after being mustered out. He would have been an ideal person to show the symbols found at Roswell, since he already had the high-level security clearance to go with his cryptographic skills and an understanding of an entirely different symbolic language.

(7) According to his notebook listing his travel expenditures, he made quite frequent trips to Washington, D.C., and New Mexico in the 1947-1949 time frame on government business. The cover story for New Mexico was the establishment of the Air Force-sponsored Sacramento Peak Observatory, which interestingly is not far from Roswell and White Sands.

(8) He considered physicist Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer, Los Alamos Manhattan Project Director, a "close friend" and also was well acquainted with Detlev Bronk and Lloyd Berkner, other members of MJ-12, as well as most of the top scientists of the 1950s.

(9) In his autobiography Menzel noted that he had done work for the CIA and wrote a TOP SECRET document about the NSA which had reached Ike and, he hoped, done some good. He also noted that when much younger he had written articles for numerous major newspapers and also written science fiction.

In short, then, we can say that Menzel was the best suited of all 12 to provide disinformation to the general public. He had written science fiction; he had written popular newspaper articles; he had written materials which showed a great interest in popularization of science. That his UFO efforts were disinformation is fairly clear if one carefully reviews criticisms of his UFO investigations by me; by Brad Sparks, a West Coast researcher who did a devastating critique; by the late Dr. James McDonald (professor of physics) in his Congressional testimony and elsewhere; and most recently by Dr. Bruce Maccabee, who has pointed out that when one carefully examines the data used by Menzel to justify certain conclusions about specific UFO cases, one finds that they don't stand up.

In case one wonders why Menzel was writing Jack Kennedy in the first place, it should be noted that Kennedy was on the Board of Overseers at Harvard. He had chosen astronomy as the area that he wanted to get involved with. Menzel clearly was impressed with Kennedy. Florence Menzel described him as a great admirer of Jack Kennedy and he even noted in one place in his files that Kennedy, unlike most of the other people who were on the Board of Overseers, did his own reports rather than asking Menzel to do them for him.

As an indication of Menzel's discretion, it is obvious that he could have saved himself a great deal of grief at the Air Force loyalty hearings by stating that he had a Navy TOP SECRET ULTRA clearance. And yet he didn't do so. This despite the fact that he described the whole loyalty business as the worst experience of his life. Part of the difficulty, incidentally, was that although the hearings were held in May 1950 and a decision was supposed to be reached within a few months, it wasn't until January 1951 that word was released (as noted in the letter above to Bush from Proctor). During that whole period of time, of course, Menzel was living in uncertainty.

Here are a couple of quotes from letters to Kennedy as examples of discretion. Speaking of the NSA in an August 13, 1960, letter:

> I have been associated with this activity for almost 30 years and probably have the longest continuous record of association of any person in the country. I still keep my close association with them. Properly cleared to one another, I should be able to help in this sensitive area.

November 3, 1960, again about the NSA:

> I have been a consultant to that activity with TOP SECRET clearance and have also had some association with the CIA. Obviously in an unclassified letter, I cannot go further into detail.

That Menzel was frank in his comments to Kennedy is clear from a letter of December 27, 1960:

May I suggest one word of caution in strictest confidence. Many of the scientists have some concerns of the strong influence exerted by Dr. Bronk in the space area. As president of the National Academy of Sciences, he is a powerful man. Somehow or other, he manages to get on almost every committee of importance. I have served on a number of these with him and have not been impressed either with his breadth of vision or his depth. He will undoubtedly urge you to put a great deal of power in his hands. I simply urge caution....A good many of us who wish to move forward in the field of space research would like to see someone other than Hugh Dryden as the executive director of NASA. Dryden simply does not have the vision to hold down this post.

A very important aspect of Menzel's professional capabilities was his engineering approach to things. He was not concerned strictly with theory at all. Even in his wartime efforts, he dealt with practical problems. There was a running battle between him and Harlow Shapley, technically his boss at Harvard, about the need for engineering work just for the design of an observatory in South Africa. Menzel was upset that Shapley did a slap-dash job and that the telescope was never so useful as it might have been if the proper engineering work had been done. In addition, Menzel makes clear in his autobiography that he did consulting work, apparently most of it highly classified, for more than 30 large companies. Some of this work was an extension of his wartime work on radio propagation for Collins Radio. He was heavily involved in the Geophysical Corporation; he worked for Lockheed, for McDonell Douglas, and many other companies and was often offered industrial jobs on a full-time basis. Instead he kept on as a consultant. He even noted that his income during retirement from the stock in the Geophysical Corporation of America, which he served as kind of a part time technical director, was greater than his combined pensions from the Smithsonian and Harvard.

So we have a man who is ready, willing and able to get his hands dirty with equipment, with technology. Parenthetically, Dr. J. Allen Hynek was nonengineering-oriented in almost all of his work. It is interesting that, according to the MJ-12 document, Menzel pushed for an origin outside our solar system. Hynek, throughout his career, refused to do any kind of background research on the engineering aspects of interstellar flight, thus destroying some of his own credibility by using the analogy that if the thickness of one playing card represents the distance from the earth to the moon, the distance to the nearest star is represented by 19 miles of playing cards and therefore obviously it was impossible to get there. This is an example of linear thinking which is totally wrong where interstellar flight is concerned. The hard part is getting off the earth because of the local gravitational field.

Since it was clear from his comments to Kennedy that Menzel had the facilities for storing, preparing, shipping and receiving classified documents, I made a serious effort to find out who did his classified work for him in the late '40s and '50s. I eventually, after considerable effort, found a woman who had been a graduate student in one of the cryptography courses, worked for him in Washington during the war as a kind of secretary and assistant, went back to Harvard with him, worked for him there, and wound up marrying one of his graduate students. He was like a father to her. As a matter of fact, her marriage took place in his house.

I tracked her down in retirement. Her husband is now deceased. I found that, yes, she had a very good recollection of her close association with Dr. Menzel; however, she was concerned that no classified data be revealed. We made an appointment by phone for me to visit her. She broke it with a lame excuse and had clearly talked with some people. From my contacts at Harvard, I know that she had expressed concern to Menzel's daughters and to Mrs. Menzel. She was worried. I had really spooked her. I have had subsequent conversations with her by phone and again it is clear she was keeping it as far away from discussions about MJ-12 as was possible. I got the impression that she knew what I was talking about, but felt that she couldn't say anything because of security. She certainly recognized the names of the MJ-12 people; not surprising, I suppose, considering their prominence. I will keep up my efforts to elicit more information from her.

Many people have objected to the notion that a man like Donald Menzel could, on the one hand, attack ufologists and ufology and explain away all cases, and on the other hand be on the inside of a UFO cover-up. Can anybody really keep his true feelings so separated? Could he live a lie? Could he not tell his close friends and his family? My answer is yes. Menzel, who was known for his discretion and who appreciated the need for separating classified and unclassified activities, could have been on the inside of one of the most important postwar scientific events imaginable: the capture and recovery of an extraterrestrial spacecraft.

For examples of people who have managed to lead double lives, one need not go far. Take the three Soviet spies who were well-established in the British Intelligence Service MI-5, Burgess, MacLean, and Philby. They fooled their associates, family, friends, for more than 15 years, in a very much more difficult situation. Klaus Fuchs was the brilliant scientist who turned over an enormous amount of information about the atomic bomb project to the Soviets. His traitorous efforts came as a complete shock to his associates. He did it out of ideological convictions, not monetary ones, incidentally.

Menzel, of course, was a loyal citizen, but the fact that he was on the inside would have appealed to his ego. The fact that he was associated with one of the most important projects ever conceived would certainly have soothed any concerns he had. He would also have been aware of the need for protecting the technology associated with saucers, for the need to prepare the public for an idea with as much impact as the notion of extraterrestrial visitation. He was certainly aware of the Soviet threat. His contacts were worldwide in terms of radio propagation, astrophysics, eclipse expeditions. It was clear to other members of the committee that Menzel could have serious influence in keeping professional astronomers and other

scientists away from the UFO question which probably would have been considered desirable since too much prying would have revealed the secret existence of a project such as Operation Majestic 12.

It seems strange indeed that over the past year I have found myself defending Donald Menzel. I didn't like the man when he was alive. I was shocked by the inadequacy of his ufological research. I found his approach and his correspondence with Ed Condon, for example, distressing indeed. But, having gone through as much material as I have, I have developed great respect for Donald Menzel. He may have been egotistical (a word I heard often from his associates, and it comes through in some of his writing about his background); however, I have to respect his discretion in maintaining an active life on behalf of his country and I admire his patriotism. I have to sympathize with the ordeal of the loyalty hearings. Would you believe that among the charges against him for disloyalty was the fact that he led an eclipse expedition to the Soviet Union in 1936? That he had said nice things at a government dinner honoring Soviet-American friendship during the war, as did everybody else at the dinner? That his wife had given a pair of stockings to a Soviet astronomer to take home to his wife?

The people who made the charges against him didn't even show up at the loyalty hearings, which were a travesty, and yet he refused to reveal his TOP SECRET ULTRA Navy clearance; he didn't go public even in this period of great personal and professional distress. I have talked with people who worked with him during the war and who knew nothing of the loyalty hearings. His approach to engineering I found significant. His close association with numerous top-level scientists was a clear indication of the respect in which he was held.

Some, such as his friend Ernest Taves, maintain that while indeed Menzel would have been called in, if such an event had occurred as the crash of a flying saucer, there would have been no need for secrecy past the first few months and that Menzel certainly would have told him (Taves) about it! This is an insult to Dr. Menzel. In the first place, it is clear there *was* and is a national security aspect: the technology of the saucer and the potential benefit; the influence on society of any announcement concerning the reality of alien visitors which could cause enormous upheaval in religion, politics, economics. Second, Menzel and all others who had high-level clearances during the war had long since learned to be discreet. Dr. Bush was famous for his insistence on compartmentalization of information. His glowing review of Menzel's discretion is testimony in itself.

I have talked with dozens of World War II generals, intelligence agents, and others in an attempt to get more information. Universally it was agreed that secrets *can* be kept and that people with high-level clearances simply do *not* tell their families or friends anything about their classified knowledge and work. Such people remain silent because to talk puts one's family at risk. If enemies think they can extract important classified information from the families of people who have it, they will resort to kidnapping, torture or other coercion. Moreover, once one has accepted the notion that highly classified information should not be distributed to people who don't have a need to know, one doesn't pass that information on. Every one of the old timers I talked with agrees that there are "black" programs that we will probably never know about. The strongest push for the notion that secrets can't be kept comes from those people who haven't kept secrets. Not surprisingly, even Dr. Hynek during his lifetime admitted that he was well aware of Vannevar Bush's concern with compartmentalization and security, because Hynek worked at the Applied Physics Laboratory at Johns Hopkins University on the proximity fuse. It was one of the projects under the direction of the Office of Scientific Research and Development. Bush's strong views about security were well known down the line.

It is certainly true that I have not been able to provide a smoking gun about Donald Howard Menzel's involvement in Operation Majestic-12. This is not surprising, especially if, as noted by Wilbert Smith, "The subject of flying saucers is the most classified subject in the United States." What I have been able to do, I believe, is to demonstrate to any reasonable person that Donald Menzel could very well have been a part of such a high-level group. He had the right kinds of knowledge, he had the right security clearances, he maintained a long and patriotic involvement with classified work at the end of the war, and he had a close association with the top-level people involved in Majestic-12.

I am continuing my work. I have received the Finder's Guides for various papers from the Eisenhower Administration dealing with science activities of one sort or another. In all probability I will have to visit the library to go through these in much more detail. At a cost of $.35 a page, one simply does not order thousands of pages of material without knowing what is in it. I intend to visit both the Truman and Eisenhower Libraries and to be in Washington, D.C., again, knowing more of what I am looking for and with the advantage of things like Personal Service contracts between Dr. Lloyd Berkner and the Executive Office of the President as a lever to unlock other such contracts with other members of Operation Majestic-12.

It is of some interest, indeed, that none of the several Menzel biographies that can be found in a good library deal at all with his close connection after World War II with intelligence agencies. The articles in *Current Biography*, the McGraw-Hill *Modern Scientists and Engineers, Who's Who in America*, and the eight-page appreciation by his former student and longtime astronomer colleague Leo Goldberg (*Sky and Telescope*, April 1977) do give a good picture of Menzel's many interests and major contributions, both to astronomy and to the war effort. There is mention of his UFO-debunking, but not a hint of the NSA, CIA, or his connections with the military and Bush. Discretion and patriotism were two prominent features of his fascinating career. It may well be that his greatest contribution was his participation in the MJ-12 epic.

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